

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 142360  
ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00  
SS-15 SP-02 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 ARA-10 PRS-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 EB-07 /114 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:MARIETTI:ILB  
APPROVED BY PM:MR. BARTHOLOMEW  
NEA/RA:MR. PALMER  
AF/I:MR. STRAUS  
EA/RA:MR. MARTENS  
S/P:MR. MORAN  
EUR/SOV:MR. KUSHLIS  
P:MR. O'DONOHUE  
DOD:COL. GORMAN  
NSC:CDR. SICK  
ACDA:MRTWOMBLY  
S/S:RGAMBLE

-----181742Z 001142 /43

R 181656Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USLO PEKING  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 142360

ADDIS ABABA ALSO FOR DJIBOUTI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XO, PARM

SUBJECT: INITIAL MEETING OF US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP ON THE  
INDIAN OCEAN

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REF: A. ISLAMABAD 5804 (NOTAL)  
B. ANTANANARIVO 0916 (NOTAL)  
C. NEW DELHI 08539 (NOTAL)

1. DURING THE SECRETARY'S MARCH TRIP TO MOSCOW, THE US PROPOSED AND THE SOVIETS AGREED TO THE FORMATION OF A US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE INITIAL MEETING OF THIS WORKING GROUP WILL BEGIN JUNE 22 IN MOSCOW. US DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE.

2. OUR PURPOSE IN THIS INITIAL MEETING WILL BE TO PROBE SOVIET THINKING AND DETERMINE IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS ON THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE ALSO WILL CONVEY TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE US IS PREPARED FOR A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION AND WILL PROPOSE THAT THERE BE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS CONDUCTED DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH

THE UK, FRANCE, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND WILL BE

MAKING A STATEMENT TO NATO ALLIES. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE APPROACHED THE INDIANS TO INFORM THEM OF OUR UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS.

4. ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON OR AFTER JUNE 22 TO INFORM THEM OF THE US-SOVIET MEETING AND TO STRESS THAT US IS TAKING A SERIOUS APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTEREST AND/OR CONCERN IN DIFFERENT LITTORAL CAPITALS AND DEFERS TO EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF APPROACHING HOST GOVERNMENT ON THIS QUESTION. IF EMBASSY FEELS APPROACH DESIRABLE, IT SHOULD DRAW ON PARAS 5-7 IN MAKING ITS APPROACH.

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5. AT US INITIATIVE THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO THE FORMATION OF A US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF MILITARY RESTRAINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE FIRST MEETING OF THIS WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN MOSCOW BEGINNING JUNE 22. THE US DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY PAUL WARNKE THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY.

6. THE US IS PREPARED TO BEGIN A SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE QUESTION OF LIMITING THE US AND SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE SEE THIS FIRST MEETING AS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS SEEKING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO LIMIT US AND SOVIET MILITARY COMPETITION IN THE REGION.

7. IN APPROACHING THESE TALKS THE US WILL KEEP SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND:

-- WE THINK THAT THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION AS THE TWO GREAT POWERS HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID SITUATIONS WHERE THEIR FORCES MIGHT COME INTO COMPETITION AND SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID A COMPETITIVE ESCALATION OF THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE.

-- FOR THAT REASON WE THINK THE US AND SOVIET UNION SHOULD BILATERALLY SEEK TO RESTRAIN THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE IN THE REGION. WE DO NOT THINK THAT THESE TALKS SHOULD INVOLVE THE MILITARY PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF OTHER NATIONS.

--THE GENERAL RIGHTS OF ALL NATIONS TO UNRESTRICTED

COMMERCIAL AND MARITIME ACCESS, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND  
TRANSIT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

-- ANY AGREEMENT SHOULD BE EQUITABLE AND SHOULD NOT  
ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE US OR THE  
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USSR OR OF THE LITTORAL STATES.

8. FOR JAKARTA, SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, KUALA LUMPUR,  
ISLAMABAD, TEHRAN, JIDDA, MANAMA, MUSCAT, NAIROBI, KHARTOUM,  
AND MANILA:

IF YOU THINK IT APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY ADD:

-- THAT US IS NOT CONSIDERING UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS IN US  
PRESENCE AND WILL ENSURE THAT ANY AGREEMENT NOT RESULT IN  
RELATIVE INCREASE IN SOVIET POSITION AND INFLUENCE IN  
THE AREA.

-- WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF VITAL INTEREST OF MANY NATIONS IN  
FREE COMMERCE AND FLOW OF OIL FROM PERSIAN GULF AND WILL  
TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING OUR POSITION.

-- US INTEREST IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN OCEAN  
ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT IN NO WAY INDICATES THAT US  
HAS REDUCED ITS INTEREST IN THE REGION.

9. FOR NEW DELHI: THIS WILL BE FIRST MEETING OF INDIAN  
OCEAN WORKING GROUP.

10. FOR PEKING: YOU SHOULD TAKE UP WITH CHINESE ON  
BASIS OF PARAS 5, 6, AND 8 ONLY. YOU MAY DO SO ON RECEIPT  
OF MESSAGE. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10  
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NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /116 R

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DRAFTED BY:PM:DCA:MARIETTI

APPROVED BY:PM:DCA:VEAKER

NEA:RA:PALMER

AF:I:STARUS

EA:RA:MARTENS

S:P:MORAN

EUR:SOV:KUSHLIS

P:O'DONOHUE

DOD:COL GORMAN

NSC:CDR SICK

S:S:GOLDSMITH

-----098183 080908Z /23

R 080610Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDESTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 142360

MILITARY ADDESS ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED JUNE 18,  
1977 SENT NAIROBI, PORT LOUIS, KHARTOUM, JIDDA, MUSCAT,  
MANAMA, TEHRAN, ISLAMABAD, BANGKOK, MANILA, KUALA LUMPUR,  
SINGAPORE, JAKARTA, VICTORIA, MAPUTO, ANTANANARIVO, LUSAKA,  
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DAR ES SALAAM, MOGADISCIO, ADDIS ABABA, COLOMBO, DACCA,  
RANGOON, PEKING, CAIRO, DOHA, KUWAIT, SANA, ABU DHABI,  
HONG KONG, NEW DELHI, LONDON, PARIS, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON,  
TOKYO, MOSCOW, BAGHDAD, TEL AVIV, USUN NEW YORK IS REPEATED  
TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 142360

ADDIS ABABA ALSO FOR DJIBUOUTI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XO, PARM

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SECRET

NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ISLAMABAD 5804, 77 ANTANANARIVO 916, 77 NEW DELHI 8539  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2102515  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**To:** NAIROBI PORT LOUIS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5065827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009